CHAPTER 12
INTUITION

CHIEF NOGUCHI'S SEARCHING PROCEDURES ARE QUITE THOROUGH

PERHAPS THINKING OUTSIDE OF IT WILL PROVE TO BE MORE BENEFICIAL
EVEN WITH THAT BEING THE CASE, IF THINKING INSIDE THE BOX ISN'T PRODUCING MUCH RESULTS

IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO INVEST SO MUCH INTO THAT ONE INCIDENT, IF IT TURNS OUT THAT IT WAS ONLY A COPYCAT

THAT'S WHY I THINK WE SHOULD BE PRIORITISING THAT ENCOUNTER ...
BUT IT MUST BE OF SOME IMPORTANCE THAT THE PERSON WHO PROCLAIMED TO BE END SHOWED UP THE WAY HE DID

EVERYBODY SHOULDN'T BE DIRECTING ALL OF THEIR ATTENTION INTO THE SAME OUTLOOK

THAT REMINDS ME, THEY'RE STILL CONDUCTING THE DNA TESTS ALL OVER THE PLACE, AREN'T THEY?

EVEN IF IT MEANS THAT WE WOULD BE AVOIDING OUR DUTY?

YES, THAT SHOULD STILL BE THE CASE
IN THAT CASE, LET'S GO AND ASK ONE OF THEM ABOUT SOMETHING

... FORGET WHAT I ASKED. IT WAS FOOLISH OF ME
OFF WE GO

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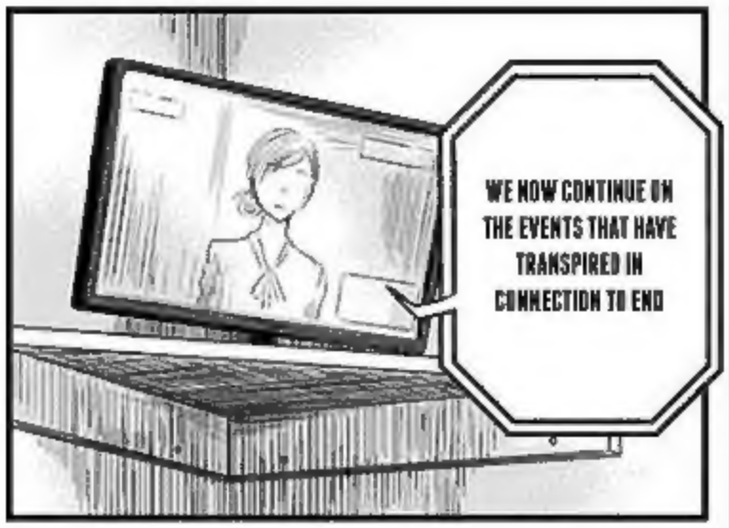
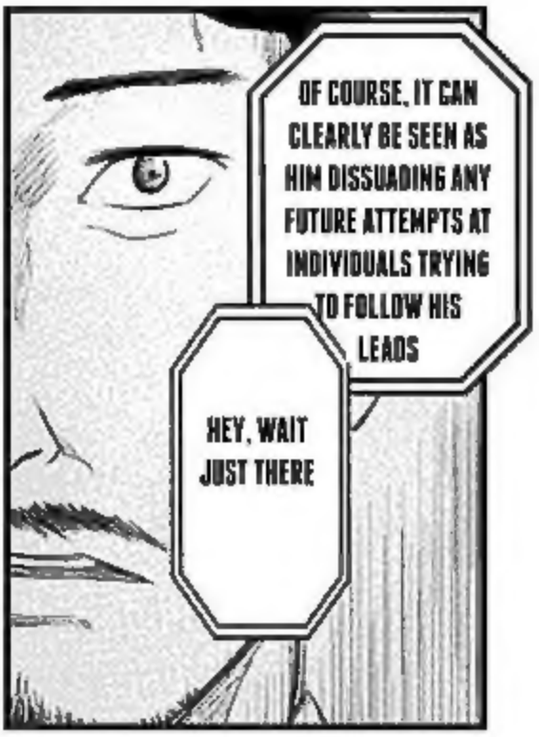

WE NOW CONTINUE ON THE EVENTS THAT HAVE TRANSPIRED IN CONNECTION TO END

TODAY, WE ARE BEING ACCOMPANIED BY THE PSYCHOLOGIST, HIGUCHI KANAME-SAN.

THAT IS CORRECT
PSYCHOLOGIST
HIGUCHI KANAME

A WARNING, YOU SAY?
WHY WOULD HE EVEN NEED TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
HUH, ISN'T THAT ...
THIS CURRENT CASE CAN BE PERCEIVED AS A TYPE OF WARNING BY END

WHERE DID YOU EVEN GET THIS IDEA OF END EVEN NEEDING OR WANTING TO DO SUCH A THING OUT OF CHARACTER?
COMMENTATOR
WAKASA KYOUJI

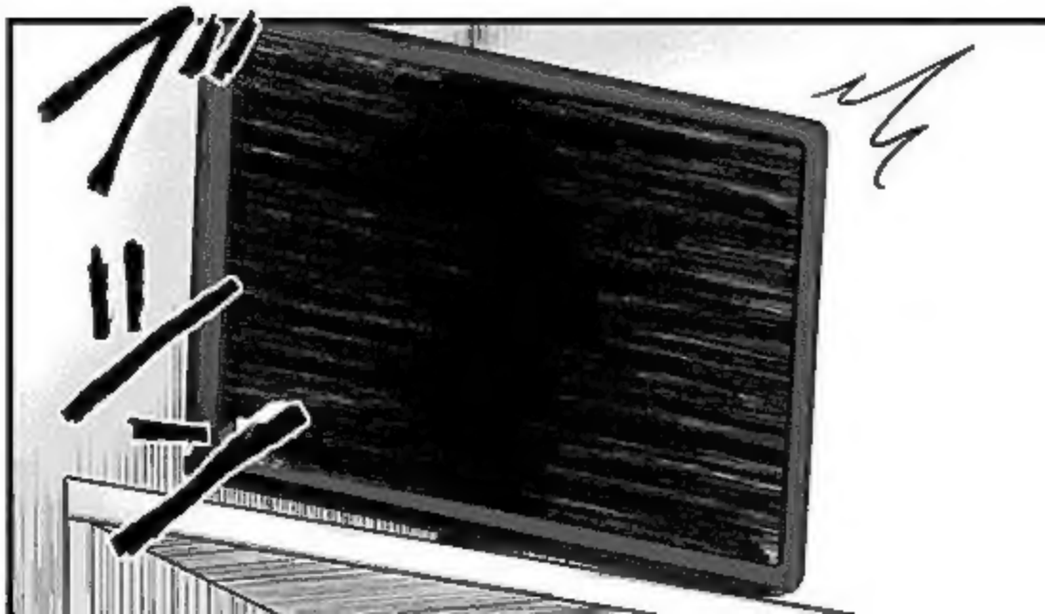

OF COURSE, IT CAN CLEARLY BE SEEN AS HIM DISSUADING ANY FUTURE ATTEMPTS AT INDIVIDUALS TRYING TO FOLLOW HIS LEADS
HEY, WAIT JUST THERE

HUH!?
WAKASA-SAN!?
CO-COMMEN-TATOR!?
コメンテータ
わかさきょうじ
若狭恭司

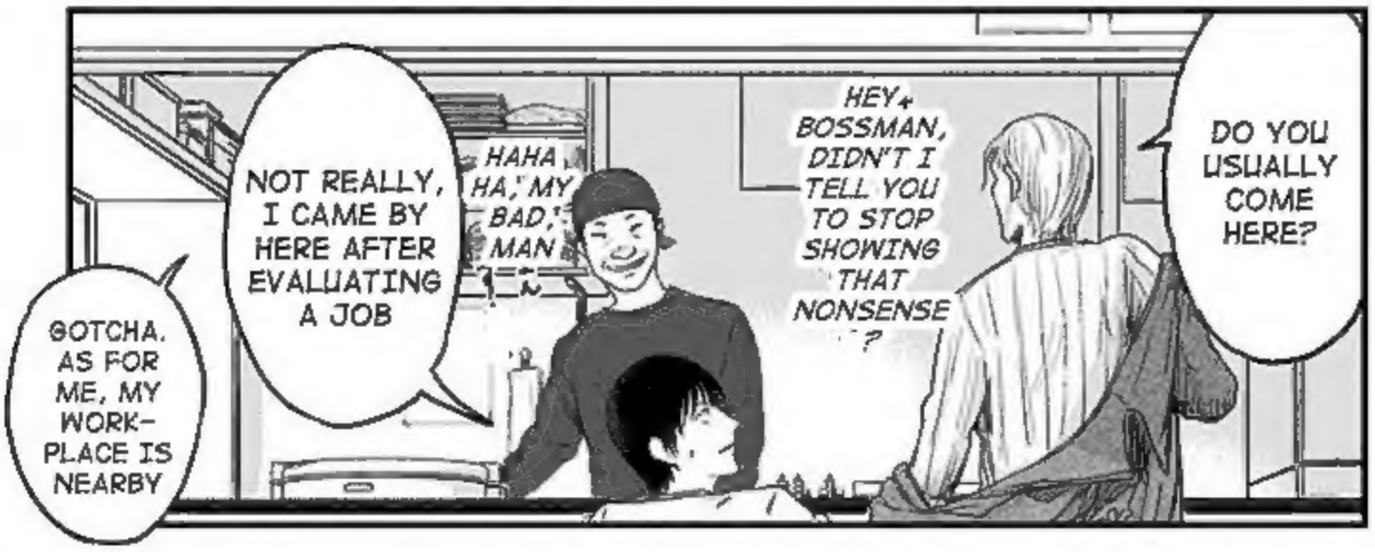
WAKASA-SAN, I GUESS IT'S TRUE THAT YOU DO SEEM TO KNOW THE MOST ABOUT-

FROM THE INFORMATION THAT WE HAVE SURMISED IN THE NEWS' REPORTS, WE CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THIS AS END GOING TO THE PROPERTY TO-
AS A MATTER OF FACT

EH!?



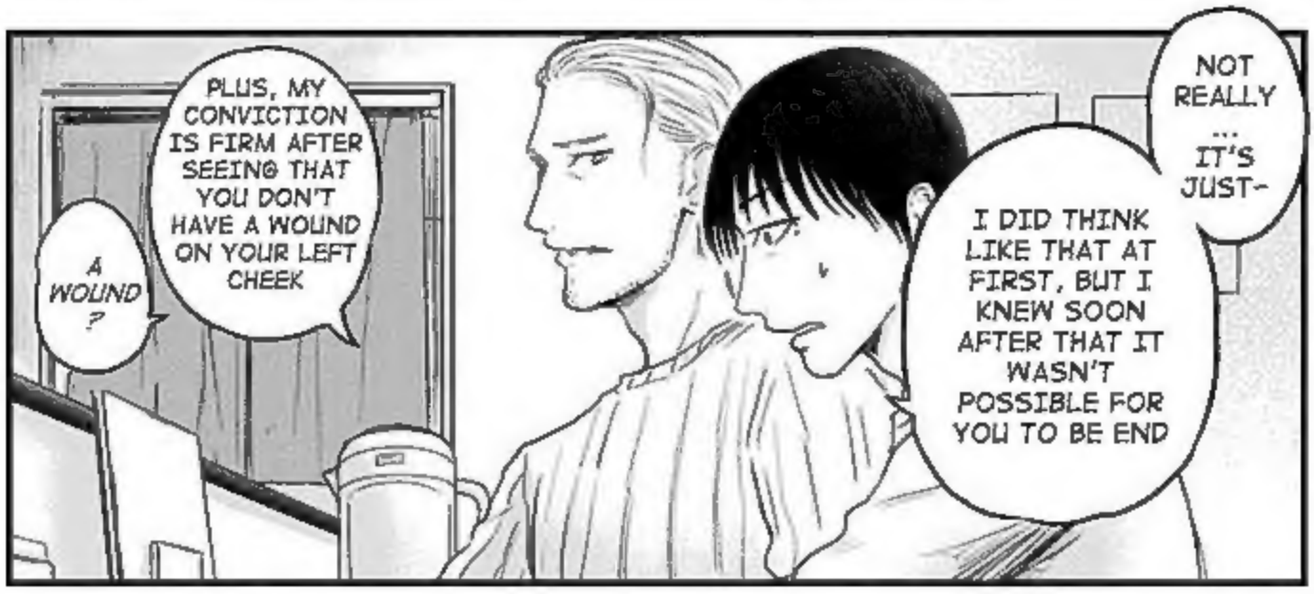
WAKASA -SAN!?
!
YO

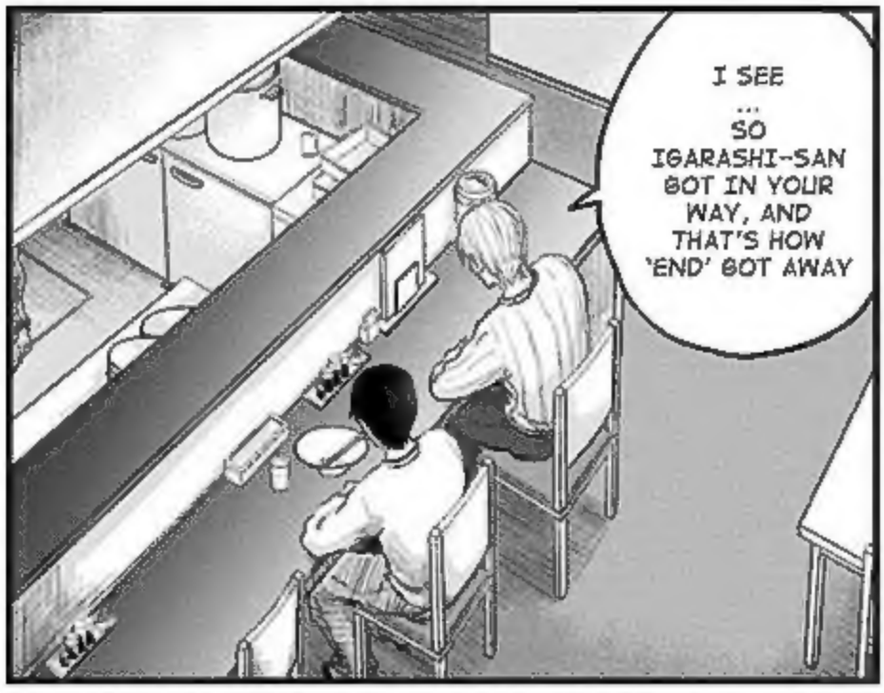

DO YOU USUALLY COME HERE?
HEY, BOSSMAN, DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO STOP SHOWING THAT NONSENSE ?
HAHA HA, MY BAD, MAN
NOT REALLY, I CAME BY HERE AFTER EVALUATING A JOB
GOTCHA. AS FOR ME, MY WORK-PLACE IS NEARBY

UHH ... ABOUT WHAT WAS ON THE TV ... ABOUT YOU BEING A COMMEN-TATOR?
A LOT OF CIRCUM-STANCES LEAD ME TO GOING ON THERE
BUT AREN'T YOU STILL BEING SUSPECTED OF BEING END?

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT?
I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE YOUR OWN DOUBTS ABOUT ME

YEAH, THAT IN ITSELF PROVIDES ME WITH A FEW CHUCKLES HERE AND THERE


A WOUND ?
PLUS, MY CONVICTION IS FIRM AFTER SEEING THAT YOU DON'T HAVE A WOUND ON YOUR LEFT CHEEK
I DID THINK LIKE THAT AT FIRST, BUT I KNEW SOON AFTER THAT IT WASN'T POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO BE END
NOT REALLY ... IT'S JUST-


I SEE ... SO IGARASHI-SAN GOT IN YOUR WAY, AND THAT'S HOW 'END' GOT AWAY

IF HARUNO WERE TO FIND 'END' FIRST
HE'LL PROBABLY KILL 'END WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT
I GUESS THAT'S PARTLY MY FAULT

BUT ... I GUESS

YOUR FAULT?
IT'S NOTHING

.....
I HAVE TO ...

IF IT WASN'T FOR IGARASHI-SAN COMING TO MY PLACE WHEN SHE DID
I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET THE CHANCE TO GO AGAINST END
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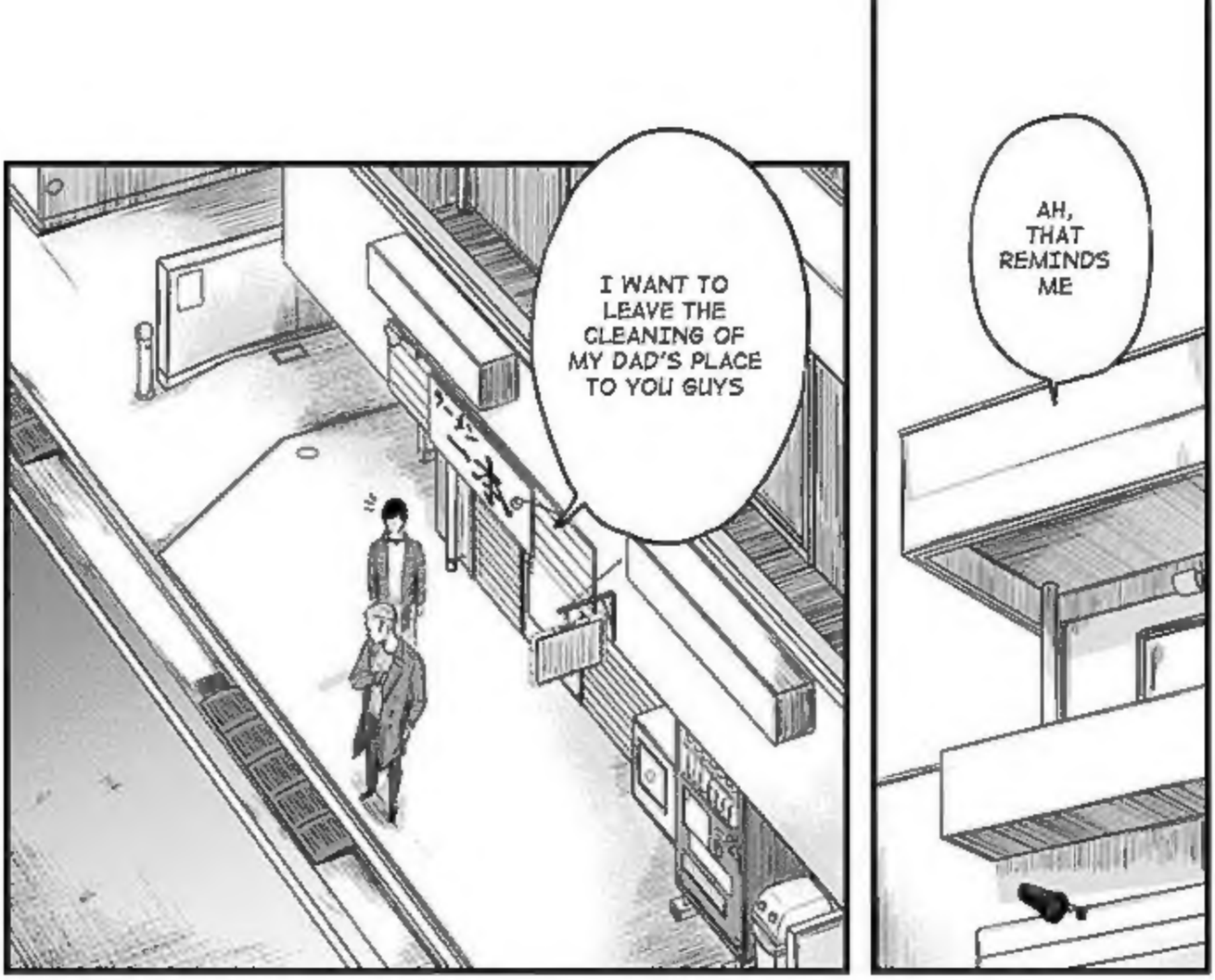
IT'S ... NOTHING

HUH? WHAT WAS YOU ABOUT TO SAY?


I WANT TO LEAVE THE CLEANING OF MY DAD'S PLACE TO YOU GUYS
AH, THAT REMINDS ME

I'VE DECIDED TO RENT OUT THE PLACE NOW
I TAKE IT THAT NOBODY ELSE IS COMING OVER TO SEE THE REMAINS?

... I SEE

I JUST WANT TO GET BACK THE MONEY THAT GOT TEKN FROM ME BY MY OLD MAN
IT'S NOT AS IF I'M TIGHT FOR MONEY

BUT I WANT TO TELL YOU IN ADVANCE THAT I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO DO THE JOB IN PERSON
ANYWAY, HOW DOES THE NEXT WEEKEND SOUND?
WE'LL BE FREE TO WORK AROUND THERE AT THAT TIME
THAT'S FINE
IS THERE A REASON WHY YOU CAN'T?
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE GOING OFF TO PLAY DETECT-IVE?
YEAH. I JUST THOUGHT THAT NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME FOR A SHORT VACATION
DO WHAT YOU WANT, DUDE I'LL CONTACT YOU AGAIN LATER
NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!

IT'S THE DETEC-TIVE WHO INTER-VIEWED ME . .
WONDER IF HE'S KEEPING AN EYE ON HARUNO

HUH?

YO

BOSS!

!?
BOSS ... COULD SHE BE TALKING ABOUT WAKASA -SAN?
UHH ...
TORA
ほ"
す,
!

GOING ON AROUND HERE!?

WHAT'S ...

高祖根警察署
A FEW DAYS LATER

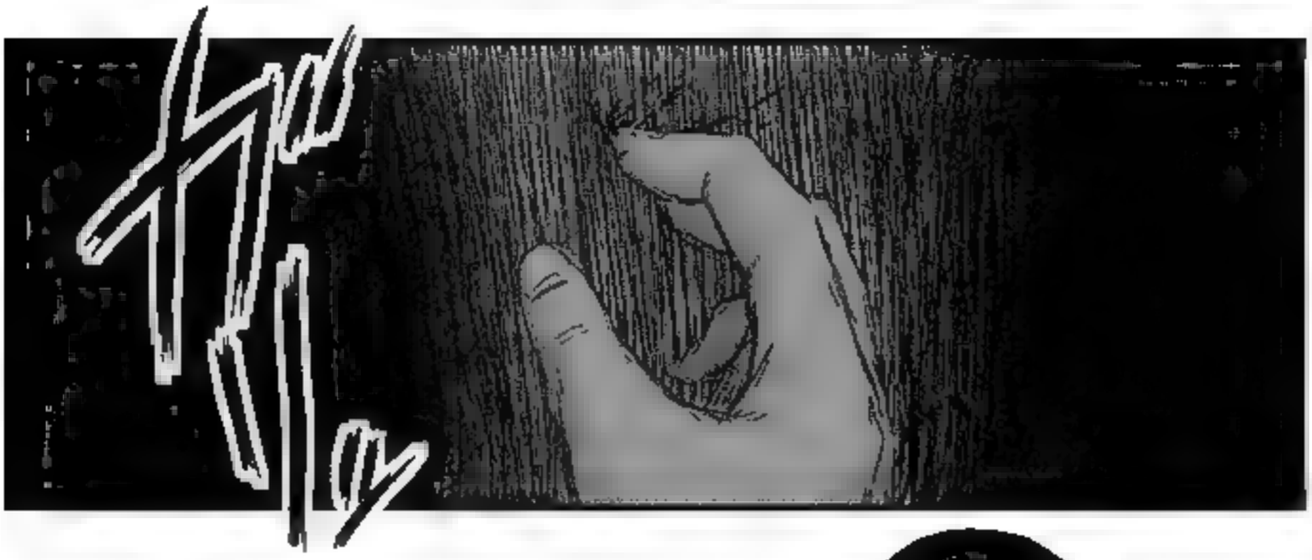
WE'RE NOW OFFICIALLY PUTTING A CLOSE ON THE CASE OF THE 'MASKED MAN'S POSSESSIONS

捜査本部 END: SERIAL MURDER INVESTIGATION TEAM

WE WERE ABLE TO LOCATE WHO HAD BOUGHT THE KNIFE
BUT UPON VISITING THE PURCHASER, THEY HAD TOLD US THAT WITH THE KNIFE BEING LEFT IN THEIR SHED, THEY WEREN'T AWARE OF IT BEING STOLEN
THAT WAS THE GIST OF IT
IT'S DIFFICULT TO GET A FIX ON WHERE THE PURCHASE OF THE TOY HANDCUFFS WAS MADE
WITH THE FACT OF THE DIFFERENCE IN STATURE, AND THE LACK OF A WOUND ON HIS FACE, IT IS SAFE TO ASSUME THAT THE PERSON IN QUESTION ISN'T THE MASKED MAN THAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR
AND IT IS WITH THAT
THAT I THANK ALL OF YOU FOR THE HARD WORK THAT YOU HAVE CONTRIBUTED DURING THIS CASE

WE DIDN'T GET ANY CLOSER

I HOPE THAT WE CAN KEEP UP THIS LEVEL OF WORK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AS FOR THE RESULTS BACK THERE-

OF COURSE
EH? DO YOU STILL INTEND ON GOING THROUGH WITH IT?
IF WE'RE GOING TO FINISH THIS BY TOMORROW, THEN WE SHOULD STOP WASTING TIME

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT SO SUSPICIOUSLY ?
KOSAKA

WE CAN REPORT IT AT-
KITO

...
FORGET THAT I ASKED
DO WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE INVESTI-GATION

YOU'RE SUCH A DAMN CYNIC WITH NO BACKBONE

HUH?

THIS WHOLE CASE IS MAKING A FOOL OUT OF OUR DEPARTMENT

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.....
と,

SO WHAT DID YOU-
SIGH
ピク
.....
A FOOL, YOU SAY ...
SIGH

WELL, I'VE DECIDED THAT I'LL BE GONE FOR TWO DAYS
I'M GOING TO THE BOSS' HOMETOWN
村マンション

OF COURSE, YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT A THING
ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO 'THAT'
ARE YOU SURE THAT YOU'RE FINE WITH HANDLING EVERY-THING?

春野 太慈
OKAY, TAKE CARE ON YOUR TRIP
UHUH

UHUH
YOU TOLD ME THAT IT WAS THE SAME AS MY OWN DECISION
WHEN TACHIBANA-SAN PASSED AWAY, I ASKED IF YOU WANTED TO CRY

HMM?
HEY

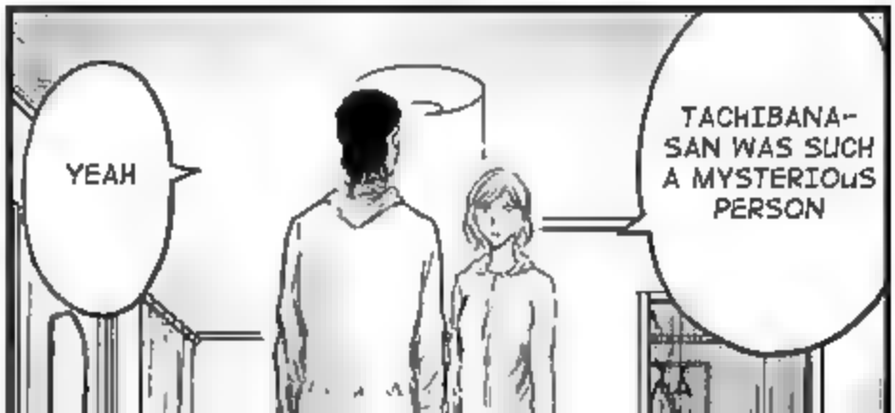
DID YOU CRY?
IF THAT WAS THE CASE

I DIDN'T CRY

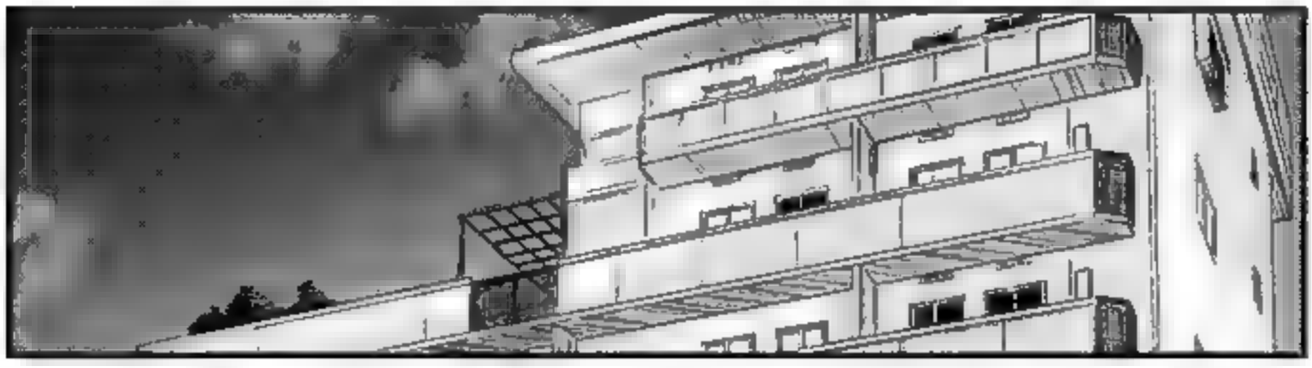
.....

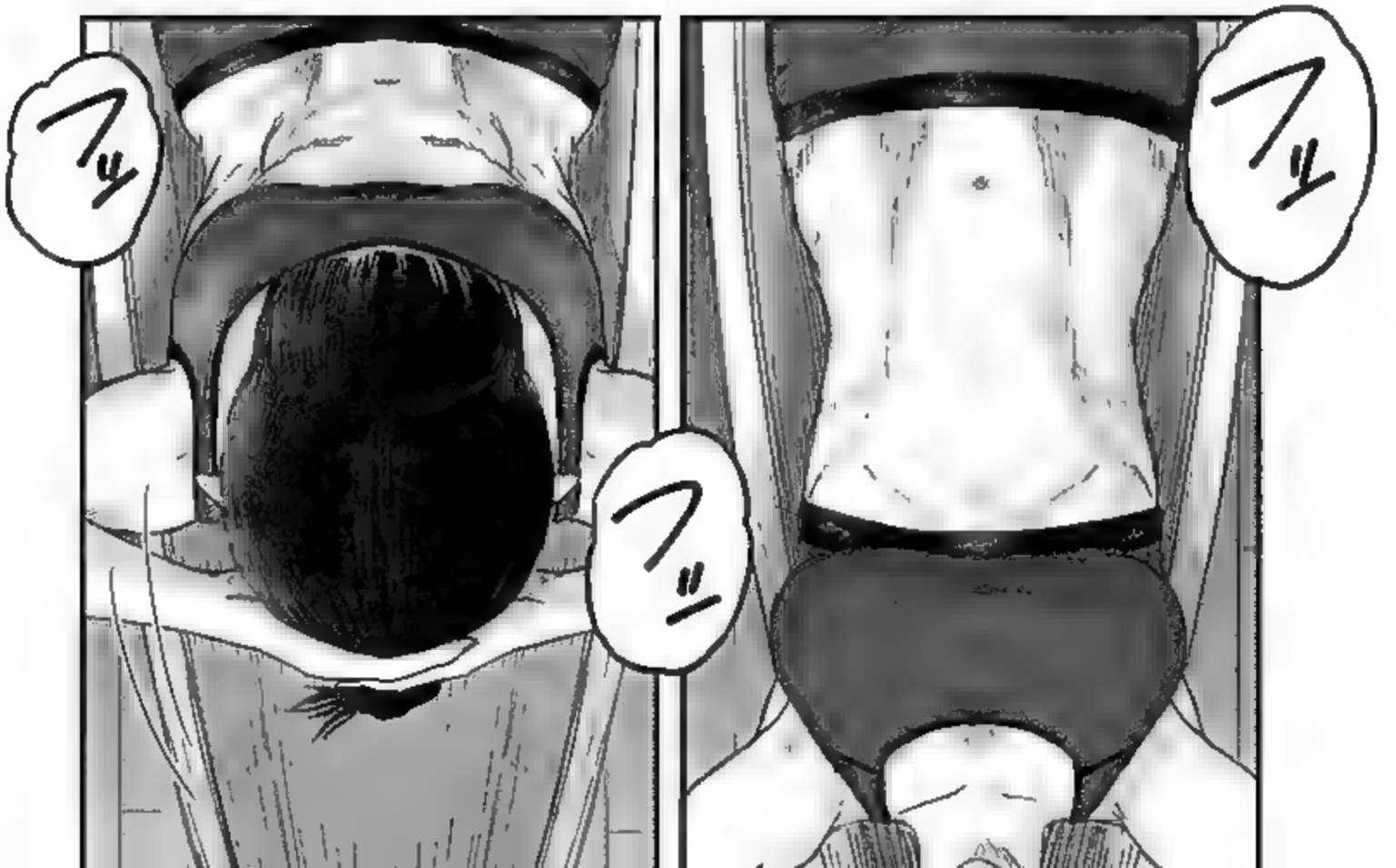
EVEN WITH HIM DEAD
I STILL FEEL AS IF HE'S STILL HERE, BESIDE ME, ACTING AS MY GUARDIAN ANGEL, OR SOMETHING

... YOU DID ANSWER CORRECTLY TO ME


YEAH
TACHIBANA-SAN WAS SUCH A MYSTERIOUS PERSON

AS FOR HARUNO -SAN
IT SEEMS LIKE HE WANTS TO FIND SOMETHING MORE ABOUT TACHIBANA-SAN, WHETHER IT'S FOR THE BETTER OR WORSE

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SWIFTLY, EFFICIENTLY, AND WITHOUT FAULTS
I HAVE TO GET BACK TO INVESTI-GATING

HAH
NOW ISN'T THE TIME FOR ME TO BE DOWN

カチャ
I'LL BE BACK SOON
ピンポーン
HELLO
IGARASHI
I WANT YOU TO GET TO TACHIBANA'S HOMETOWN, NOW

DO I HAVE THE CLEAR-ANCE TO DO SO?
NOW!?

BUT AREN'T THE RECENT EVENTS HERE MORE OF A PRIORITY THAN-
I'LL TAKE RESPON-SIBILITY FOR THIS ONE

PLEASE WAIT A MINUTE, CHEIF
THERE'S STILL THINGS HERE THAT I NEED TO-

I'VE ALREADY GOT THE TICKET FOR YOUR FLIGHT READY
IT'S SET TO LEAVE WITHIN THE NEXT 2 HOURS
HURRY

WE'VE ONLY BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN INFORMATIO N FROM TACHIBANA'S RELATIVES VIA PHONE CALLS
WE SHOULD AT LEAST GO THERE IN PERSON TO CHECK OVER SOME DETAILS THAT COULD'VE BEEN LOOKED OVER

IN ALL HONESTY, I WANT YOU TO DO THIS FOR ME

BUT WHY ME?
AREN'T I STILL A BURDEN FOR YOU TO BE ENTRUS- TING SUCH A TASK TO ME?

.....

THIS IS IMPOR- TANT

.....

I UNDER- STAND